

U.S. Sergeant Asks Asylum, Cuba Says

HAVANA, March 24 (UPI).—Cuban authorities an-

nounced today that a U. S. Army sergeant had flown to Havana in a light plane and asked asylum in Cuba as a political refugee.

In Washington, the Pentagon said Sgt. Bobby J. Keesee, who flew the stolen plane to Havana had been absent from his post at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., since Jan. 30. It said he was listed as a deserter as of Feb. 28.

The Pentagon said Keesee had never had access to classified information at his duty station. It said he was under investigation by the Army for passing bogus checks and for forgery.

LANDING CHARGES

The Cuban communique said the sergeant landed in a light Piper Commadore plane at the Ciudad Libertad airport in the Havana suburbs and asked officials for asylum.

The plane Keesee used apparently belongs to the Seven-

Star Flying Service of Albuquerque, N. M. and was rented last Wednesday for a flight to Carlsbad, N. M.

The spokesman said when Keesee did not return Wednesday the company checked the Carlsbad airport and found he had landed, but took off shortly afterward. Then the border patrol in Miami called, saying the plane "was in that area."

The plane landed at Marathon, in the Florida Keys, yesterday.

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT